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International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 9th, 11th and 30th meetings, on 5 and 12 October and 21 November 2001. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.9, 11 and 30). The Committee held a general debate on the item at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 1 to 3 October (see A/C.2/56/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues (A/56/167).

4. At the 9th meeting, on 5 October, the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/56/SR.9).

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II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.4 and A/C.2/56/L.28

5. At the 11th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/56/L.4), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo, in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular session II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997 and 54/212 of 22 December 1999, on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

"*Reaffirming* the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the international instruments regarding the protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recalling* that heads of State and Government, gathered at the United Nations Millennium Summit, from 6 to 8 September 2000, committed themselves to making the right to development a reality for everyone and resolved to take measures, inter alia, to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families,

"*Recalling also* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities as entrusted to them in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the relevant United Nations conferences of the 1990s, in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities on international migration,

"*Noting* the need for the relevant United Nations organizations and other international organizations to enhance their financial and technical support to developing countries to ensure that migration contributes to development,

"*Recognizing* the diversity of views expressed by the respondents to the survey regarding the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda, which represented 41 per cent of the full United Nations membership, and that forty-seven respondents

were in favour of convening a conference, five were partially in favour and twenty-six were against,

"*Noting in particular* the need for more migration data, a coherent theory to explain international migration and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,

"*Noting* the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development, including through the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee for Development Policy, the International Labour Organization and other relevant key organizations,

"*Noting with appreciation* the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development, in particular in the context of regional cooperation,

"*Noting* the work undertaken under the International Migration Policy Programme by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the International Labour Office, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions, with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments to manage migration flows at national and regional levels and thus to foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

"*Aware* that, among other factors, the process of globalization and liberalization, including the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the increasing marginalization of some countries in the global economy, has contributed to large flows of peoples between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

"*Aware also* that, in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to make further efforts to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are respected and protected and that it is desirable to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

"*Recognizing* the importance, from an analytical and operational point of view, of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development and of the need for comprehensive, coherent and effective policies on international migration based on the spirit of genuine partnership and common understanding,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;

"3. *Encourages*, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;

"4. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development programmes;

"5. *Also calls upon* the United Nations, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and agencies, to provide support for dialogue involving Governments and other relevant stakeholders on international migration and development issues;

"6. *Encourages* the international donor community, relevant United Nations bodies and the private sector to provide support, including financial and technical support, for data collection and greater empirical research by Member States, particularly developing countries, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system on the causes and patterns of migration, including on irregular migration and trafficking, as well as its social, economic and demographic impacts, and for documenting and disseminating information on successful migration management programmes;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people, to which end efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development, ensuring a better economic balance between developed and developing countries, should be strengthened;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to solicit more views from Member States, particularly those that have not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of resolution 52/189, as well as from the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, bearing in mind various regional processes, and to recommend ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development;

"9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to initiate or continue appropriate action in consultation with regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, inter alia, the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities;

"10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled 'International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues'."

6. At the 30th meeting, on 21 November, the Vice-Chairman, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/56/L.28), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.4.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.28 (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.28, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.4 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,[1] in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] the Platform for Action[4] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and in the outcome documents of the twenty-fourth[5] and twenty-fifth[6] special sessions of the General Assembly,

Recalling also its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997 and 54/212 of 22 December 1999 on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the international instruments regarding the protection of human rights, in particular the

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[6] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[7] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10]

Recalling that heads of State and Government, gathered at the United Nations Millennium Summit from 6 to 8 September 2000, committed themselves to respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development,[11]

Recalling also that heads of State and Government at the United Nations Millennium Summit resolved to take measures, inter alia, to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies,

Recalling further that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities as entrusted to them in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the relevant United Nations conferences of the 1990s, in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities in the field of population and development, including activities on international migration,

Noting the need for the relevant United Nations organizations and other international organizations to enhance their financial and technical support to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition to ensure that migration contributes to development,

Recognizing the diversity of views expressed by the respondents to the survey regarding the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda,[12] which represented 41 per cent of the full United Nations membership, and that forty-seven respondents were in favour of convening a conference, five were partially in favour and twenty-six were against,

Noting in particular the need for more migration data, analysis of factors influencing international migration and of its impact, and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,

Noting the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development, including through the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee for Development Policy, the International Labour Organization and other relevant key organizations,

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[7] Resolution 217 A (III).
[8] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.
[9] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[10] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[11] Resolution 55/2.
[12] See A/54/207.

Noting with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development,[13] in particular in the context of regional cooperation,

Noting the work undertaken under the International Migration Policy Programme by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the International Labour Office, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions, with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments to manage migration flows at national and regional levels and thus to foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

Noting also the work of the Secretariat in the field of migration and development,

Aware that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, due in part to the uneven impact of the benefits of globalization and liberalization, have contributed to large flows of people between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

Aware also that, in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to make further efforts to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are respected and protected and that it is desirable to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

Recognizing the importance, from an analytical and operational point of view, of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development and of the need for comprehensive, coherent and effective policies on international migration based on the spirit of genuine partnership and common understanding,

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[13] Including the European Conference on Migration, held at Brussels on 16 and 17 October 2001; the International Symposium on Migration, Towards Regional Cooperation in Irregular/Undocumented Migration, held at Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 1999, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration (see A/C.2/54/2, annex); the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996; the Regional Conference on Migration in North and Central America; regional migration policy capacity-building and cooperation meetings organized and planned by the International Migration Policy Programme; the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development, held at Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 15 to 17 October 1998; and the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, held at The Hague from 29 June to 3 July 1998.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;

3. *Encourages*, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development programmes;

5. *Encourages* Governments of countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination to increase cooperation on issues related to migrations and to engage in further dialogue, including through relevant subregional, regional and international processes and organizations, as appropriate, including on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and agencies, to provide support for dialogue involving Governments and other relevant stakeholders on international migration and development issues;

7. *Encourages* the international community, including donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant international organizations and the private sector to provide support, including financial and technical support, for data collection and greater empirical research by Member States, in particular developing countries, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations on the causes and patterns of migration, including on irregular migration and trafficking, as well as its social, economic and demographic impacts, and for documenting and disseminating information on successful management of all aspects of migration;

8. *Invites* Governments, with the assistance of the international community, where appropriate, to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people, in particular through efforts to achieve sustainable development, leading to a better economic balance between developed and developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to solicit, one additional time, the views of Member States that have not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of resolution 52/189, as well as those of the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, as well as their views on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,[14]

[14] A/56/167.

bearing in mind various regional processes, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to initiate or continue appropriate action in consultation with regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, inter alia, the report of the Secretary-General,[14] and encourages the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution that will, inter alia, update the lessons learned, as well as best practices on migration management and policies, from the various activities relating to international migration and development that have been carried out at the regional and interregional levels, and submit action-oriented recommendations for the consideration of the Assembly;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".